

Coherent pulse position modulation quantum cipher supported by secret key

Masaki Sohma and Osamu Hirota*

*Research Center for Quantum Information Science, Tamagawa University
6-1-1, Tamagawa-gakuen, Machida, Tokyo, 194-8610, JAPAN* [†]

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A quantum cipher supported by a secret key so called keyed communication in quantum noise (KCQ) is very attractive in implementing high speed key generation and secure data transmission. However, Yuen-2000 as a basic model of KCQ has a difficulty to ensure the quantitative security evaluation because all physical parameter for the cipher system is finite. Recently, an outline of a generalized scheme so called coherent pulse position modulation(CPPM) to show the rigorous security analysis is given, where the parameters are allowed to be asymptotical. This may open a new way for the quantum key distribution with coherent states of considerable energy and high speed.

In this paper, we clarify a generation method of CPPM quantum signal by using a theory of unitary operator and symplectic transformation, and show an asymptotic property of security and its numerical examples.

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I. INTRODUCTION

An application of quantum phenomena to securing optical network has received much attention. In this case, instead of mathematical encryption, a guarantee of security by a physical principle is expected. So far the quantum key distribution(QKD) based on very weak optical signals has been developed and demonstrated in many institutions. However, these have inherent difficulty such as quantum implementations and very low bit rates compared to current data transmission rates.

In order to cope with such a drawback, in 2000, a new quantum cipher was proposed [1]. It is a kind of stream cipher with randomization by quantum noise generated in measurement of coherent state from the conventional laser diode. The scheme is called Yuen-2000 protocol(Y-00) or $\alpha\eta$ scheme[2,3] which consists of large number of basis to transmit the information bit and pseudo random number generator(PRNG) for the selection of the basis. A coherent state as the ciphertext which is transmitted from the optical transmitter(Alice) is determined by the input data and the running key K from the output sequence of PRNG with a secret key K_s . The legitimate receiver(Bob) has the same PRNG, so he can receive the correct ciphertext under the small error, and simultaneously demodulate the information bit. The attacker (Eve), who does not know the key, has to try to discriminate all possible coherent state signals. Since the signal distance among coherent state signals are designed as very small, Eve's receiver suffers serious error to get the ciphertext. Such a difference of the accuracy of the ciphertext for Bob and Eve brings preferable security which cannot be obtained in any conventional cipher. Unfor-

tunately, it is very difficult to clarify the quantitative security evaluation for this type of cipher, because all physical parameter for the cipher system is finite. So far, complexity theory approach [4] and information theoretic approach [5] have been tried, but still there is no rigorous theoretical treatment.

Recently, Yuen has pointed out that it is possible to show the rigorous security analysis when the parameters are allowed to be asymptotical, and showed a sketch of the properties using a model of coherent pulse position modulation (CPPM) [6]. This may open a new way for the quantum key distribution with coherent states of considerable energy and high speed.

In this paper, we clarify a generation method of CPPM quantum signal by using a theory of unitary operator and symplectic transformation, and show a security property and its numerical examples. In the section II, the back ground for the information theoretic security and the Shannon limit are explained. In the section III and IV, we describe a theory of CPPM. In the section V and VI, we discuss on the security and implementation problem.

II. BACK GROUND OF INFORMATION THEORETIC SECURITY

In the conventional cipher, the ciphertext Y is determined by the information bit X and running key K . This is called non random cipher. However, one can introduce more general cipher system so called random cipher by noise such that the ciphertext is defined as follows:

$$Y_i = f(X_i, K_i, r_i) \quad (1)$$

where r_i is noise. Such a random cipher by noise may provide a new property in the security. In Shannon theory for the symmetric key cipher, we have the following theorem.

*Electronic address: hirota@lab.tamagawa.ac.jp

[†]Electronic address: sohma@eng.tamagawa.ac.jp

Theorem 1(Shannon, 1949 [7])

The information theoretic security against ciphertext only attack on data has the limit

$$H(X|Y) \leq H(K_s). \quad (2)$$

This is called Shannon limit for the symmetric key cipher. To be beyond the Shannon limit is essential for fresh key generation by communication or information theoretic security against known plaintext attack in the symmetric key cipher. In the context of random cipher, one can exceed this limit. It is known that the necessary condition for exceeding the limit is $Y^E \neq Y^B$ [6,8,9]. That is, the ciphertexts for Bob and Eve are different. Still the necessary and sufficient condition is not clear, but if the following relation holds, one can say that the cipher exceeds the Shannon limit

$$H(X|Y^E, K_s) > H(X|Y^B, K_s) = 0. \quad (3)$$

This means that Eve cannot pin down the information bit even if she gets a secret key after her measurement of the ciphertext while Bob can do it. In the following sections, we will clarify that CPPM has indeed such a property.

III. COHERENT PULSE POSITION MODULATION CRYPTOSYSTEM

The coherent pulse position modulation (CPPM) cryptosystem has been proposed as a quantum cipher permitting asymptotical system parameters [1,6].

Alice encodes her classical messages by the block encoding where n -bit block j ($j = 1, \dots, N = 2^n$) corresponds to the pulse position modulation (PPM) quantum signals with N slots,

$$|\Phi_j\rangle = |0\rangle_1 \otimes \dots \otimes |\alpha_0\rangle_j \otimes \dots \otimes |0\rangle_N. \quad (4)$$

In addition, Alice apply the unitary operator U_{K_i} to PPM quantum signals $|\Phi_j\rangle$, where the unitary operator U_{K_i} is randomly chosen via running key K_i generated by using PRNG on a secret key K_s . Thus, Alice gets CPPM quantum signal states,

$$|\Psi_j(K_i)\rangle = U_{K_i}|\Phi_j\rangle = |\alpha_{1j}(K_i)\rangle_1 \otimes \dots \otimes |\alpha_{Nj}(K_i)\rangle_N, \quad (5)$$

which are sent to Bob. Let us assume an ideal channel. Since the secret key K_s , PRNG and the map $K_i \rightarrow U_{K_i}$ are shared by Alice and Bob, Bob can apply the unitary operator $U_{K_i}^\dagger$ to the received CPPM quantum signal $|\Psi_j(K_i)\rangle$ and obtain the PPM quantum signal $|\Phi_j\rangle$. Bob decodes the message by the direct detection for $|\Phi_j\rangle$, which is known to be a suboptimal detection for PPM signals [10]. Then Bob's block error rate is given by

$$P_e^{dir} = (1 - \frac{1}{N})e^{-|\alpha_0|^2} < e^{-|\alpha_0|^2}. \quad (6)$$

Here $e^{-|\alpha_0|^2} \approx 0$ holds for enough large signal energy $S = |\alpha_0|^2$. In contrast, Eve does not know the secret key K_s and hence she must detect CPPM quantum signals directly. This makes Eve's error probability worse than Bob's one.

IV. CONSTRUCTION OF CPPM

In this section, we discuss a method for the construction of CPPM quantum signals from PPM ones by the unitary operator associated with a symplectic transformation.

A. Quantum Gaussian States

The classical probability distribution π is characterized by the *characteristic function* $\phi(z) = \int \exp[ix^T z] \pi(dx)$. The characteristic function of Gaussian distribution with the mean m and the correlation matrix B is given as $\phi(z) = \exp[im^T z - \frac{1}{2}z^T B z]$. We extend this argument to define the quantum Gaussian state [11]. We consider self adjoint operators on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} , $q_1, p_1, q_2, p_2, \dots, q_N, p_N$ satisfying Heisenberg CCR:

$$[q_j, p_k] = i\delta_{jk}\hbar I, \quad [q_j, q_k] = 0, \quad [p_j, p_k] = 0, \quad (7)$$

where $\delta_{j,k} = 1$ for $j = k$ and $\delta_{j,k} = 0$ for $j \neq k$. Let us introduce unitary operators

$$V(z) = \exp(i R^T z) \quad (8)$$

for a real column $2r$ -vector z and

$$R = [q_1, p_1; \dots; q_N, p_N]^T.$$

The operators $V(z)$ satisfy the Weyl-Segal CCR

$$V(z)V(z') = \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\Delta(z, z')\right] V(z + z'), \quad (9)$$

where

$$\Delta(z, z') = -z^T \Delta_N z' \quad (10)$$

is the canonical symplectic form with

$$\Delta_N = \bigoplus_{k=1}^N \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \hbar \\ -\hbar & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

The Weyl-Segal CCR is the rigorous counterpart of the Heisenberg CCR, involving only bounded operators. Now we can define the quantum characteristic function as

$$\tilde{\phi}(z) = \text{Tr} \rho V(z). \quad (12)$$

The transformation \mathcal{L} satisfying

$$\Delta(\mathcal{L}^T z, \mathcal{L}^T z') = \Delta(z, z') \quad (13)$$

is called a *symplectic transformation*. We denote the totality of symplectic transformations by $Sp(N, \mathbb{R})$. Eq. (13) can be rewritten as

$$\mathcal{L}\Delta_N\mathcal{L}^T = \Delta_N. \quad (14)$$

The symplectic transformation preserves Weyl-Seagull CCR (9) and hence it follows from Stone-von Neumann theorem that there exists the unitary operator U satisfying [11]

$$V(\mathcal{L}^T z) = U^\dagger V(z)U. \quad (15)$$

We call such derived operator U the *unitary operator associated with symplectic transformation* \mathcal{L} .

The density operator ρ is called Gaussian if its quantum characteristic function has the form

$$\tilde{\phi}(z) = \text{Tr}\rho V(z) = \exp\left[im^T z - \frac{1}{2}z^T A z\right]. \quad (16)$$

In an N -mode Gaussian state, m is a $2N$ -dimensional mean vector and A is a $2N \times 2N$ -correlation matrix. The mean m can be arbitrary vector; the necessary and sufficient condition on the correlation matrix A is given by

$$\Delta_N^{-1} A \Delta_N^{-1} + \frac{1}{4} A^{-1} \leq 0. \quad (17)$$

The coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$ ($\alpha = x + iy$) is the quantum Gaussian state with the mean

$$m = \sqrt{2\hbar}(x, y)^T \quad (18)$$

and the correlation matrix

$$A_1 = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

and the N -ary coherent state $|\alpha_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha_N\rangle$ ($\alpha_j = x_j + iy_j$) is the quantum Gaussian state with the mean

$$m = \sqrt{2\hbar}(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_N, y_N)^T \quad (20)$$

and the correlation matrix

$$A_N = \bigoplus_{k=1}^N \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (21)$$

B. Generation of CPPM quantum signals by symplectic transformation

We study a way to generate CPPM quantum signals by the unitary operator U associated with a symplectic transformation. Any unitary operator composed of beam splitters and phase shifts can be described by a symplectic transformation. First, let us consider the state $U|\phi\rangle$ for a general N -ary coherent state $|\phi\rangle = |\alpha_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha_N\rangle$.

By using Eq. (15), the quantum characteristic function of the state $U|\phi\rangle$ is given as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}(z) &= \text{Tr}U|\phi\rangle\langle\phi|U^\dagger V(z) = \text{Tr}|\phi\rangle\langle\phi|V(\mathcal{L}^T z) \\ &= \exp\left[(\mathcal{L}m)^T z - \frac{1}{2}z^T \mathcal{L}A_N\mathcal{L}^T z\right], \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where m and A_N is the mean vector and the correlation matrix given by Eqs. (20) and (21) respectively. Eq. (22) shows that the state $U|\phi\rangle$ is the quantum Gaussian state with the mean $\mathcal{L}m$ and the correlation matrix $\mathcal{L}A_N\mathcal{L}^T$. Our interest is devoted to the case where the state $U|\phi\rangle$ is an N -ary coherent state. Then the symplectic transformation \mathcal{L} should satisfy the condition $\mathcal{L}A_N\mathcal{L}^T = A_N$, that is,

$$\mathcal{L} \in O(2N) := \{\mathcal{L} \in M(2N, \mathbb{R}) | \mathcal{L}\mathcal{L}^T = I_{2N}\} \quad (23)$$

where I_{2N} is the $2N \times 2N$ identity matrix and $M(2N, \mathbb{R})$ is the set of $2N \times 2N$ real matrices. Denoting the totality of $N \times N$ -unitary matrices by $U(N)$, we have the relation

$$Sp(N, \mathbb{R}) \cap O(2N) \cong U(N). \quad (24)$$

Here the matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \begin{pmatrix} r_{11}R(\theta_{11}) & \cdots & r_{1N}R(\theta_{1N}) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ r_{N1}R(\theta_{N1}) & \cdots & r_{NN}R(\theta_{NN}) \end{pmatrix} \\ &\in Sp(N, \mathbb{R}) \cap O(2N), \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

with real numbers r_{jk} and rotation matrices $R(\theta_{jk})$, corresponds to the matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_C &= \begin{pmatrix} r_{11}e^{i\theta_{11}} & \cdots & r_{1N}e^{i\theta_{1N}} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ r_{N1}e^{i\theta_{N1}} & \cdots & r_{NN}e^{i\theta_{NN}} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\in U(N). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

We can find that the unitary operator associated with $\mathcal{L}_C \in U(N)$ transforms the state $|\phi\rangle = |\alpha_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha_N\rangle$ to the state $|\phi'\rangle = |\alpha'_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha'_N\rangle$, where $\vec{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_N)^T$ and $\vec{\alpha}' = (\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_N)^T$ are related in the equation

$$\vec{\alpha}' = \mathcal{L}_C \vec{\alpha}. \quad (27)$$

In particular, from the PPM quantum signals $|\Phi_j\rangle = |0\rangle_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha_0\rangle_j \otimes \cdots \otimes |0\rangle_N$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$, the CPPM ones are generated as

$$|\Psi_j\rangle = \bigotimes_{k=1}^N |\alpha_0 r_{kj} e^{i\theta_{kj}}\rangle_k, j = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (28)$$

In other words, N -ary coherent states

$$\bigotimes_{k=1}^N |\alpha_{kj}\rangle_k, j = 1, \dots, N, \quad (29)$$

are the CPPM quantum signals generated by applying the unitary operator associated with $\mathcal{L}_C \in U(N)$ to the PPM quantum signals $|\Phi_j\rangle$ if and only if the matrix with (k, j) -elements $\alpha_{k,j}/\alpha_0$ is unitary.

V. SECURITY ANALYSIS OF CPPM CRYPTOSYSTEM

A. Heterodyne attack

We give a foundation for discussing security of CPPM cryptosystem. Without knowing the secret key K_s Eve cannot apply the appropriate unitary operator to CPPM quantum signals, and hence she has to receive directly CPPM quantum signals. Since the quantum optimum receiver is unknown for such signals, we apply the heterodyne receiver, which is suboptimum and appropriate to discuss the performance of error. This scheme is called heterodyne attack.

Our main target in this subsection is to study the heterodyne attack on $U|\phi\rangle$, where U is the unitary operator associated with $\mathcal{L}_C \in U(N)$, and $|\phi\rangle$ is a general N -ary coherent state $|\alpha_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\alpha_N\rangle$.

Heterodyne detection is characterized by a family of operators with a parameter $\beta \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$X(\beta) = \frac{1}{\pi} |\beta\rangle\langle\beta| \quad (30)$$

The outcomes β of the heterodyne detection for a coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$ appears with the probability density function

$$\text{Tr}|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|X(\beta) = \frac{1}{\pi} |\langle\alpha|\beta\rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-|\alpha-\beta|^2}, \quad (31)$$

which represents the normal distribution with the correlation matrix $(1/2)I_2$.

The outcomes $\vec{\beta} = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_N)^T$ of the individual heterodyne detection for $U|\phi\rangle$ obeys the probability density function,

$$\begin{aligned} P_{U|\phi}(\vec{\beta}) &= \text{Tr} U|\phi\rangle\langle\phi| U^\dagger \otimes_{j=1}^N X(\beta_j) \\ &= \text{Tr} U|\phi\rangle\langle\phi| U^\dagger \frac{|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|}{\pi^N} \\ &= \text{Tr} |\phi\rangle\langle\phi| \frac{U^\dagger |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| U}{\pi^N}, \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

with $|\psi\rangle = |\beta_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\beta_N\rangle$. Here, putting $\vec{\beta}' = (\beta'_1, \dots, \beta'_N)^T = \mathcal{L}_C^* \vec{\beta}$ and taking account of Eq (27), we get

$$\frac{U^\dagger |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| U}{\pi^N} = \otimes_{j=1}^N X(\beta'_j). \quad (33)$$

Note that $*$ represents the conjugate transpose and \mathcal{L}_C^* corresponds to the unitary operator U^\dagger . Substituting this equation to Eq. (32), we obtain

$$P_{U|\phi}(\vec{\beta}) = P_{|\phi\rangle}(\vec{\beta}'), \quad (34)$$

where $P_{|\phi\rangle}$ is the probability density function with which the outcomes of heterodyne detection for the state $|\phi\rangle$ appears. Eq. (34) shows that the vectors $\vec{\beta}'$ given by applying the unitary matrix \mathcal{L}_C^* to the outcomes $\vec{\beta}$ obeys the probability density function $P_{|\phi\rangle}$.

B. Error probability for CPPM quantum signal with key after measurement

It is difficult to evaluate the error performance for CPPM quantum signals by heterodyne attack, because the randomness of PRNG has to be taken into account. Yuen showed the lower bound of the error performance by using heterodyne detection for the original PPM quantum signals [6]. But it may be not tight one. Here we try another approach. We allow Eve to get the secret key K_s after her measurement by heterodyne for CPPM quantum signals and hence to know the unitary operator U_{K_i} and the corresponding unitary matrix \mathcal{L}_{C,K_i} . Then, from the discussions in the subsection V A, Eve can apply the unitary matrix \mathcal{L}_{C,K_i}^* to obtain the vector $\vec{\beta}'$, which obeys to the probability density function $P_{|\phi_j\rangle}$. This fact enables us to apply the decoding process for PPM signals. That is, Eve may use maximum-likelihood decoding for $\vec{\beta}'$, whose rule is to pick the j for which β'_j is largest, and her error probability is given as follows [12]:

$$P_e^{het}(key) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{(y - \sqrt{2S})^2}{2}\right] Q_N(y) dy, \quad (35)$$

where $S = |\alpha_0|^2$, and

$$\begin{aligned} Q_N(y) &= 1 - [\Phi(y)]^{N-1}, \\ \Phi(y) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^y \exp(-v^2/2) dv. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

We will compute the lower bounds of Eve's error probability $P_e^{het}(key)$ to evaluate its convergence speed. The error probability $P_e^{het}(key)$ is lower bounded as [12]:

$$\begin{aligned} P_e^{het}(key) &\geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^z \exp\left[-\frac{(y - \sqrt{2S})^2}{2}\right] Q_N(y) dy \\ &\geq Q_N(z) \Phi(z - \sqrt{2S}), \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

where the parameter z can take any real number value. Putting $z = \sqrt{fn}$ and $n = \log_2 N$ in (37), we obtain

$$P_e^{het}(key) \geq Q_{2^n}(\sqrt{fn}) \Phi(\sqrt{fn} - \sqrt{2S}) \rightarrow 1, n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (38)$$

Let us consider the case of $S = 20$. Then Bob's error probability P_e^{dir} is less than $10^{-8.69}$, while $P_e^{het}(key)$ converges to 1. Figure 1 shows convergence behavior of lower bound for $P_e^{het}(key)$. In this figure, the lower bounds (37) for $f = 0.9, 1.1, 1.2$, are plotted with respect to $n = \log M$. Since the parameter f in the lower bound (37) can take arbitrary real number, values of error probability $P_e^{het}(key)$ exist the region above the graphs in Figure 1. Note that the above values of f are chosen as they give better lower bounds for $P_e^{het}(key)$. From Figure 1, it is found that the convergence speed of lower bound for $P_e^{het}(key)$ is very slow; $n > 50$ ($N > 2^{50}$) is needed to achieve the error probability 0.9.

Thus, in the CPPM scheme, Eve cannot pin down the information bit even if she gets the true secret key K_s and PRNG after her measurement, and consequently it has been proved that CPPM satisfies Eq(3).

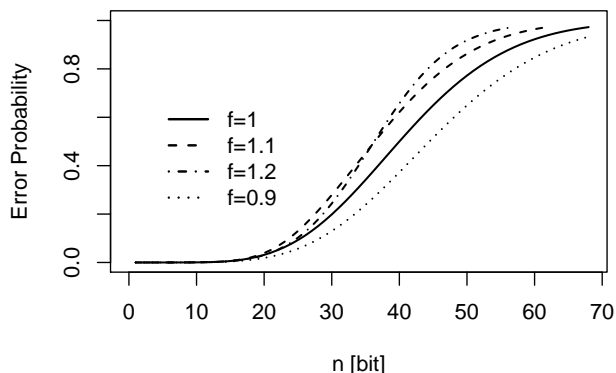


FIG. 1: Lower bounds for Eve's decoding error probability in the case where she gets the secret key K_s after her measurement for CPPM quantum signals

VI. SUBJECTS ON SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

According to the above analysis, one needs large number of n when the signal energy is large. Here we give a requirement of channel bandwidth for the secure communication by CPPM. Let us assume that the signal bandwidth is W_s when there is no coding. In our scheme, first one has to transform the n input information bit sequence to PPM signal with 2^n slots. Second, such PPM signals are converted into CPPM with the same number of slots. If one wants to transmit such CPPM signal with no delay, the required bandwidth is

$$W_{CPPM} = \frac{2^n}{n} W_s. \quad (39)$$

Thus, the bandwidth exponentially increases with respect to n . Since one needs the large n to ensure the security, one needs a huge bandwidth.

On the other hand, we need to realize the unitary transformation to generate CPPM quantum signals from PPM ones. Such transformations may be implemented by combination of beam splitters and phase shifts [6], but to generate the CPPM quantum signals with uniform distance for all signal, we need also large number of elements. Thus we need more detailed consideration for the practical use. In future work, we will specify the realization method.

VII. CONCLUSION

A crucial element of the coherent pulse position modulation cryptosystem is a generation of CPPM quantum signals from PPM ones by a unitary operator. In this paper, we have given a proper theory for a unitary operator and a symplectic transformation basing on the quantum characteristic function. Furthermore, by using the above results, we have shown the lower bound of error probability in the case where Eve gets the secret key after her measurement. This result clearly guarantees the fresh key generation supported by the secret key encryption system.

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